

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08

FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04

TRSE-00 ACDA-10 /129 W

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R 201006Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2164

ERDA HDQTRS WASHDC

INFO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 TEHRAN 3454

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, TECH, TGEN, IR

SUBJ: PAPERS SUBMITTED BY U.S. DELEGATES AT SHIRAZ/PERSEPOLIS

CONFERENCE ON TRANSFER OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY

1. THE FOLLOWING NINE POINTS FOR DISCUSSION WERE PREPARED BY DR. JOSEPH DIETRICH, PRESIDENT-ELECT OF AMERICAN NUCLEAR SOCIETY AND CIRCULATED TO SELECTED DELEGATES IN PRIVATE MEETING, AT SUBJECT CONFERENCE:

BEGIN TEXT: (A) THE ESSENTIAL POINT IS THAT MOST COUNTRIES LOOK UPON NUCLEAR POWER AS THE ONLY ROUTE TO ENERGY INDEPENDENCE. FOR THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH DO NOT HAVE LARGE RESOURCES OF URANIUM THIS INDEPENDENCE WILL COME ONLY WITH THE BREEDER REACTOR. THE REPROCESSING OF FUEL AND RECYCLING OF FISSILE ISOTOPES ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE OPERATION OF ANY BREEDER, NO MATTER WHAT THEY TYPE. HENCE ANY SUGGESTION THAT REPROCESSING AND RECYCLING ARE UNACCEPTABLE STRIKES AT THE VERY ROOT OF THIS MOTIVATION FOR ADOPTING NUCLEAR POWER, AND NATURALLY IS VIEWED WITH ALARM.

(B) ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT CARTER HAS CONCLUDED THAT THE UNITED STATES CAN AFFORD TO DEFER THE BREEDER, MANY OTHER COUNTRIES CANNOT AFFORD SUCH A COURSE. THEY VIEW THE BREEDER AS AN UNCLASSIFIED

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IMMINENT REALITY, AND THIS VIEW IS SUPPORTED BY THE RAPID PROGRESS IN LMFBR DEVELOPMENT IN EUROPE. THEY WANT TO MAKE FIRM PLANS FOR A NUCLEAR FUTURE NOW. THE NATIONAL INVESTMENT REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH A NUCLEAR POWER CAPABILITY IS FAR TOO LARGE A COMMITMENT TO BE MADE IF ITS ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE IS IN DOUBT.

(C) IN THE INTERIM UNTIL INDEPENDENCE IS ACHIEVED THROUGH THE

BREEDER, MOST COUNTRIES ARE LIKELY TO TAKE THE VIEW THAT URANIUM OFFERS NO MORE SECURITY THAN OIL AS AN IMPARTIAL FUEL SUPPLY. INDEED, SO LONG AS URANIUM ENRICHMENT REMAINS A NEAR-MONOPOLY OF THE UNITED STATES, IT MIGHT BE ARGUED THAT THE SUPPLY OF ENRICHED URANIUM IS LESS SECURE THAN THE SUPPLY OF OIL. IN THIS CIRCUMSTANCE, THE IMPLICATION OF NEW RESTRICTIONS ON THE REPROCESSING AND ENRICHMENT TECHNOLOGIES IS AGAIN CAUSE FOR ALARM.

(D) AN IMPLICATION THAT THE UNITED STATES, THROUGH ITS ENRICHMENT, REPROCESSING, AND RECYCLING POLICIES, WILL ATTEMPT TO AFFECT THE COURSE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THOSE TECHNOLOGIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD IS ANOTHER WORRY. THE REQUIRED PACE OF IMPLEMENTATION WILL DEPEND UPON THE RATE OF GROWTH OF ENERGY NEEDS IN THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES, UPON THE WORLD RESOURCES OF URANIUM, AND UPON THE POLICIES TAKEN BY THOSE NATIONS WHICH ARE IN A POSITION TO EXPORT URANIUM. MOST OF THE IMPORTING NATIONS WOULD LIKE TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN COURSES OF NUCLEAR IMPLEMENTATION - PARTICULARLY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPROCESSING AND RECYCLING, WITHOUT WHICH THEIR URANIUM FEED REQUIREMENTS INCREASE BY ABOUT 45 PERCENT.

(E) THE CARTER STATEMENT IS REGARDED BY SOME AS AN IMPLICATION OF UNILATERAL ABROGATION OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS: DR. EKLUND HAS CITED ARTICLE 4 OF THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY. THIS PERCEPTION, ON THE ONE HAND, WEAKENS THE CONFIDENCE OF OTHER NATIONS IN THE U.S. PROMISES OF NUCLEAR FUEL SUPPLY, AND ON THE OTHER HAND MAY WEAKEN THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE EXISTING AGREEMENTS AND MAY EVEN CAUSE SOME NPT SIGNATORIES TO RECONSIDER. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY THAT HAS BEEN MENTIONED IS THE INDEPENDENT DEVELOPMENT OF ENRICHMENT AND REPROCESSING CAPABILITIES BY UNCLASSIFIED

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OTHER NATIONS.

(F) MANY FEEL THAT THE RESTRICTION OF REPROCESSING IS NOT AN EFFECTIVE DETERENT TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROLIFERATION. THIS LEADS TO TWO CONCERNS: THAT RESTRICTION OF REPROCESSING IS FAR TOO HIGH A PRICE TO PAY FOR A marginally EFFECTIVE SAFEGUARD; THAT RELIANCE ON THAT RESTRICTION WILL BLUNT THE EFFORT TOWARD MORE EFFECTIVE MEANS OF PROLIFERATION CONTROL.

(G) THE EMPHASIS IN THE CARTER STATEMENT ON EXPLORING OTHER BREEDER TYPES AND OTHER FUEL CYCLES TENDS TO DESTROY THE CREDIBILITY OF THE TECHNICAL BASIS FOR THE STATEMENT. THERE ARE NO FUEL CYCLES WHICH ARE CONSISTENT WITH BREEDING AND WHICH PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE TECHNOLOGICAL BARRIER TO PROLIFERATION. THE SO-CALLED TAYLOR FUEL CYCLE MAY HAVE ADVANTAGES OF THIS KIND, BUT ONLY IF REPROCESSING OF FUEL IS RESTRICTED TO LOCATIONS CONSIDERED "SAFE", AND THE RESULTING PLUTONIUM IS BURNED OR OTHERWISE DISPOSED OF ON THAT SITE OR A SIMILARLY "SAFE" ONE.

(H) MANY NATIONS FEEL THAT REPROCESSING OF SPENT FUEL IS THE ONLY FEASIBLE ROUTE TO SAFE ULTIMATE DISPOSAL OF RADIOACTIVE

WASTES. SOME ARE LEGALLY COMMITTED TO THAT ROUTE.

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(I) REGARDLESS OF ANY FURTHER INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS BY THE UNITED STATES TO IMPLEMENT THE POINTS OF THE CARTER STATEMENT, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DOMESTIC POINTS WILL BE REGARDED AS A VICTORY FOR THE GROUPS WHICH OPPOSE NUCLEAR POWER. THIS WILL GIVE THEM GREATER POWER IN OTHER COUNTRIES, WHERE THEY HAVE ALREADY SHOWN THE CAPABILITY OF SERIOUSLY IMPEDING NUCLEAR POWER PROJECTS. JOSEPH DIETRICH, 12 APRIL 1977. END TEXT.

2. DIETRICH WILL GIVE PRESIDENT CARTER A PRIVATE DETAILED WRITTEN REPORT OF DISCUSSIONS IN RESPONSE TO CARTER'S STATEMENT TO CONFERENCE ON 10 APRIL 1977. REPORT BY DIETRICH WILL NOT BE MADE PUBLIC UNLESS RELEASED BY THE PRESIDENT.

3. STATEMENT OF OFFICIALS OF AMERICAN NUCLEAR SOCIETY (ANS), EUROPEAN NUCLEAR SOCIETY (ENS), AND JAPAN ATOMIC ENERGY SOCIETY (JAES) MADE AT THE END OF CONFERENCE IS "PERSEPOLIS PROSPECTUS FOR PEACEFUL NUCLEAR POWER," TEXT AS FOLLOWS:
BEGIN TEXT: (A) ISSUED 14 APRIL 1977 AT IRAN CONFERENCE ON TRANSFER OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY BY THE SOCIETY OFFICIALS AS THEIR PERSONAL PERCEPTIONS.

(B) THE STATE OF ATOMS FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES, AS OF APRIL 1977,
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HAS BEEN FULLY AND RESPONSIBLY ASSESSED IN A WORLD CONFERENCE IN IRAN WITH MORE THAN 700 SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL PROFESSIONALS REPRESENTING 41 NATIONS PARTICIPATING.

(C) CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN REPORTED TOWARD GOALS ASPIRED TO NOW BY MORE AND MORE ENERGY-SHORT COUNTRIES, DEVELOPING AS WELL AS INDUSTRIALIZED, WHICH COUNT ON NUCLEAR POWER FOR ALLEVIATING THE ENERGY RESOURCE SHORTAGES THAT BECOME MORE CRITICAL FROM YEAR TO YEAR.

(D) BUT THERE ARE DEEP CONCERNS HELD GENERALLY THROUGHOUT THE NUCLEAR COMMUNITY REGARDING LIMITATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS BEING PLACED ON THE AVAILABILITY OF NUCLEAR FUEL, ON THE REPROCESSING OF SPENT FUEL FROM OPERATING NUCLEAR POWER REACTORS AND ON DEVELOPMENT OF THE ULTIMATE SOURCE FOR ACHIEVING ENERGY INDEPENDENCE: THE BREEDER REACTOR.

(E) THERE IS ALSO DEEP CONCERN REGARDING THE PROBLEM OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROLIFERATION, AND A COMMITMENT TO ITS SOLUTION. THE CURTAILMENT OF PROGRESS TOWARD THE CLOSING OF THE NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BREEDER REACTOR, AND THE RESTRICTION OF INFORMATION EXCHANGE IN THOSE AREAS, ARE NOT, HOWEVER, REGARDED AS EFFECTIVE WAYS OF PREVENTING PROLIFERATION: THEY MAY, IN FACT, PROVE TO BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE.

(F) PARTICIPANTS IN THIS CONFERENCE HAVE OPENLY AND FREELY EXPRESSED VIEWS THAT FORM THESE PREVAILING POSITIONS: (1) THE MAIN BURDEN OF CONTROLLING WEAPONS PROLIFERATION SHOULD NOT BE PUT ON THE BACK OF PEACEFUL NUCLEAR POWER, AND (2) UNILATERAL RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND NUCLEAR POWER EXPANSION GO BEYOND DOMESTIC SITUATIONS, AFFECT OTHER NATIONS' NUCLEAR PROGRAMS ADVERSELY AND LIMIT LEGITIMATE CONTRACTUAL ACTIVITIES. THEREFORE, THE CONSIDERED THINKING OF MANY DELEGATES TO THIS CONFERENCE IS THAT THE PROBLEMS OF PROLIFERATION SHOULD BE DEALT WITH IN WAYS OTHER THAN BY INHIBITING THE GROWTH OF PEACEFUL NUCLEAR POWER, ESPECIALLY AS IT WILL BE ACHIEVED WITH UNFETTERED TRANSFER OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY.

(G) THE COMPELLING AIMS OF ALL NATIONS RE THE IMPROVEMENT OF MAN'S ENVIRONMENT AND PRUDENT CONSERVATION OF HIS ENERGY RESOURCES. FOR MEETING THESE OBJECTIVES BEST, NUCLEAR FUEL USE UNCLASSIFIED

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SHOULD BE AS UNLIMITED AS POSSIBLE. NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING AND RECYCLING SHOULD BE FACILITATED AS EARLY AS TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE, FOR THE TWO PURPOSES OF CONSERVING THE URANIUM RESOURCE AND OF ARRIVING QUICKLY AT SAFE AND ECONOMIC METHODS FOR THE PERMANENT DISPOSAL OF THE RADIOACTIVE WASTES.

(H) THE COLLECTIVE DIALOGUE AT THIS IRAN CONFERENCE ON TRANSFER OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY HAS BEEN TIMELY AND CONSTRUCTIVE. WE ARE ENCOURAGED, THEREFORE, TO MAINTAIN OUR DIALOGUE. ACCORDINGLY, THE PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SPONSORING THIS UNIQUE CONFERENCE PLAN TO ORGANIZE FUTURE CONFERENCES THAT WILL CONTINUE TO FOSTER

ESSENTIALPERSON-TO-PERSON EXCHANGES. ON AN URGENT AND CONTINUING COMMITMENT, THE PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES AND COOPERATING ORGANIZATIONS IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD WILL PURSUE THEIR ULTIMATE GOAL: THE FREE AND OPEN EXPLOITATION OF NUCLEAR ENERGY TO BENEFIT ALL MANKIND. SIGNED, JOSEPH R. DIETRICH, PRESIDENT-ELECT, AMERICAN SOCIETY; E. MUNAKATA, JAPAN ATOMIC ENERGY SOCIETY, END TEXT.

4. DR. A. ETEMAD, PRESIDENT OF AEOI, WILL GIVE SUMMARY REPORT TO IAEA SALZBURG CONFERENCE STARTING MAY 1. MAJOR INPUT TO ETEMAD'S REPORT MADE IN CONFERENCE BY NORMAL JACOBSON OF ANS STAFF.

5. SECOND NUCLEAR CONFERENCE PLANNED FOR IRAN, APRIL 1981. ANS, ENS, JAES WILL AGAIN CO-SPONSOR.

6. RECOMMEND THAT KEY STATE DEPARTMENT, ACDA, ERDA, AND NRC OFFICIALS CONSULT WITH JOSEPH DIETRICH, PRESIDENT-ELECT OF ANS, PRIOR TO IAEA SALZBURG CONFERENCE. DIETRICH NOW IN UNITED STATES AT COMBUSTION ENGINEERING AT WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT. DIETRICH WILL ATTEND SALZBURG MEETING.
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